

Subject: Netscape Update (8/29/01) - long

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Organization: NOAA/NOS

To: _OAR Netscape Admins <netscape@oar.noaa.gov>,
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Newsgroups: oar.netscape

This information also posted on the Newsgroup and Intranet.

<news://neptune.nos.noaa.gov/oar.netscape>

http://oarit.oar.noaa.gov/Netscape_Admin/netscape_admin_home.htm

Some fairly important issues this week (particularly items 1 and 2).

1) MIGRATION UPDATE - The MOC recently sent out a report of the percentage of users that are running on Netscape servers (<https://hermes.nos.noaa.gov:23198/dsgw/info/migration4.html>) and among all the line offices OAR was dead last (by a lot). We are currently at 53% while the rest of NOAA is at 93%. For those of you that are not yet running on Netscape servers we need to get you moved over as soon as possible (you know who you are).

If you need assistance I'm more than willing to help. In addition, we've got a pretty powerful box here at headquarters that doesn't have very many users on it so we could actually host your e-mail here if you are interested in doing that.

2) Directory Server - Directory Server 4.15 is out. You should upgrade to that version. It's supposedly more stable and it also fixes a fairly large LDAP security vulnerability. You can download a version for your server at (<http://docs.nems.noaa.gov/software.html>).

3) Calendar - Still on target for implementation on Oct 31st. We need to come up with an implementation plan for OAR. Dave Evans is very eager to have everyone on an organization wide calendar system. We are developing user training here at HQ and when it's done I'll send it out to all of you. You can use it or not use it as you deem necessary (I know that at least here at HQ we're going to need some pretty thorough training).

4) Keyview Pro - I'm not sure how many of you actually use Keyview (it's a file reading utility that we purchase with Netscape to read attachments). Keyview has decided to stop making the product and we need to decide if we want to pay for maintenance for it for next fiscal year. Again it sort of depends on how much we're actually using it (it's installed for everyone here at HQ, about 20% of us use it). It also depends on what sort of support we need for it (so far I've never had to call Keyview for support on their product).

So my initial reaction is to not pay for maintenance for next year (we'll still be licensed for the software since we already bought it, but we wouldn't get any technical support). Let me know if you feel differently.

5) Consolidation - The CIO's office has shown an increase interest in consolidating e-mail systems mainly to remove any single points of failure and have 99.999% availability (five 9's of availability is an idea that the DOC has keyed in on for a lot of systems).

The MOC is putting together a few scenarios to consolidate the SSMC campus (and possible a couple of other non-OAR offices in the DC metro area). Essentially,

clustering models that would provide a lot of redundancy and a lot of disk space to users.

Personally, I think it would work pretty well for the SSMC campus - I certainly wouldn't mind not having to support a mail server (although I would still be able to manage the user accounts). It might be an idea worth considering for the Boulder or Seattle campus in the future, but I don't know how the rest of you feel about it (Hate the idea with a passion? Feel that it's a step toward fascism? Are really sick of managing Netscape Mail Servers?).

As always if you have any questions or concerns just let me know.

thanks,

-Jeremy

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